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School administrators could receive certifications

LANSING – A bill headed to the governor would require the State Board of Education to develop a voluntary school administrator's certificate said bill sponsor Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks.

Senate Bill 673 says the certificate would be for school district and intermediate school district superintendents, school principals, assistant principals and other administrators whose primary responsibility is administering instructional programs. The certificate would not be required.

"Michigan is the only state that does not require certification for administrators and I believe that doing so would provide more consistent and quality leadership in our schools," Jelinek said. "It would still be a voluntary program, but it would be to an administrators benefit to be certified."

The bill would permit the board to develop standards and procedures for:

- the application and issuance of certificates;
- the suspension and revocation of certificates;
- educational and professional requirements to be certified; and
- continuing educational requirements for recertification.

Currently Michigan does not require certification to allow qualified professionals from various backgrounds to become school administrators. This voluntary certificate program would allow that to continue while ensuring confidence in school leaders.